

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. Cancelled.
2. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of joists are bar joists.
3. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of joists are open-web joists.
4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of joists are shaped-steel.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising a suspension connector operatively attached to at least one of said plurality of hubs.
6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further wherein said plurality of joists and plurality of hubs are capable of being articulated from a first position to a second position.
7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein said plurality of hubs include a plurality of openings configured to receive said plurality of joists.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 7, wherein said plurality of openings include at least one slot.
9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, further comprising said work platform.
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein said suspension connector is a chain.
11. (Currently Amended) A work platform support system comprising:

a plurality of joists; and

a plurality of hubs;

wherein the plurality of joists comprises four joists and wherein the plurality of hubs comprises four hubs;

wherein: i) one of the joists and two of the hubs are stationary; ii) two of the joists are rotatable; and iii) two of the hubs and one of the joists are translatable;

wherein the joists and hubs are interconnected so that the two rotatable joists, the two translatable hubs, and the one translatable joist can articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist and the stationary hubs so as to receive a work platform; and

wherein the plurality of joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final ~~positions~~ position;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

12. Cancelled.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the hubs comprises:

a first surface with a first set of openings;

a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface, said second surface having a second set of openings; and

a structural element connected between said first surface and said second surface, ;

wherein at least one of said first set and said second set of openings is adapted to provide an articulation of said device when interconnected with said at least one joist;

wherein each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings.

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said first surface is substantially planar.

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said second surface is substantially planar.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said structural element is a cylinder.
17. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said structural element is a right circular cylinder.
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 17, wherein a longitudinal axis of said right circular cylinder is normal to said first surface and said second surface.
19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein said first surface and said second surface interconnect with said at least one joist.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 13, wherein one of said first surface and said second surface includes a support opening, wherein said support opening is configured to receive an attachment means.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said attachment means is a chain.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein said support opening includes a slot.
23. (Currently Amended) A work platform system comprising:
at least four hubs ~~mechanisms~~;
at least four joists ~~mechanisms~~ each of the four joists ~~mechanisms~~ interconnected with at least two of the four hubs ~~mechanisms~~; and
wherein: i) one of the joists ~~mechanisms~~ and two of the hubs ~~mechanisms~~ are stationary; ii) two of the joists ~~mechanisms~~ are rotatable; and iii) two of the hubs ~~mechanisms~~ and one of the joists ~~mechanisms~~ are translatable;
- wherein the two rotatable joists ~~mechanisms~~, the two translatable hubs ~~mechanisms~~, and the one translatable joist ~~mechanism~~ can articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist ~~mechanisms~~ and the stationary hubs ~~mechanisms~~ so as to receive a work platform;
- wherein the at least four joists ~~mechanisms~~ are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions; and

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

24. (Currently Amended) A work platform system for suspending a work platform from a structure, said system comprising:

a plurality of joists;

at least one of a plurality of hubs for interconnecting at least two of said plurality of joists;

and

a suspension connector for suspending at least one of the plurality of joists and at least one of the plurality of hubs from a structure;

wherein the plurality of joists comprises four joists and wherein the plurality of hubs comprises four hubs;

wherein: i) one of the joists and two of the hubs are stationary; ii) two of the joists are rotatable; and iii) two of the hubs and one of the joists are translatable;

wherein the two rotatable joists, the two translatable hubs, and the one translatable joist can articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the stationary joist and the stationary hubs so as to receive a work platform;

wherein the plurality of joists are substantially coplanar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions; and

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

25. Cancelled.

26. Cancelled.

27. Cancelled.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~26~~63, wherein the articulating does not require any hoisting equipment.

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~26~~63, wherein the articulating is completed in a cantilevered manner.

30. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub connected in fixed relation to a second hub using a first joist; and a
third hub connected to a fourth hub using a second joist, the third and the fourth hubs further
connected to the first and the second hubs using third and fourth joists;

wherein the second, the third and the fourth joists, and the third and the fourth hubs
articulate from an initial position to an extended position with respect to the first and second hubs
and the first joist to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth joists extends substantially
perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and
fourth hubs about which the respective joists rotate;

wherein the first, second, third and the fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect
to each other in the initial and the extended positions;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such
that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

31. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 30 wherein at least one of the second,
the third and the fourth joists rotates with respect to at least one of the first hub and the second hub.

32. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 30 wherein at least one of the second,
the third and the fourth joists translates with respect to at least one of the first joist, the first hub
and the second hub.

33. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 30 wherein at least one of the second,
the third and the fourth joists pivots with respect to at least one of the third hub and the fourth hub.

34. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first pair of hubs connected in fixed relation to each other using a first joist; and a
second pair of hubs connected to each other using a second joist, the second pair of hubs further
connected to the first pair of hubs using third and fourth joists;

wherein the second, the third and the fourth joists and the second pair of hubs articulate from an initial position to a final position with respect to the first pair of hubs and the first joist to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective hubs in the first and the second pair of hubs about which the respective joists rotate; and

wherein the first, second, third and the fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the initial and the final positions;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

35. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 34 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist rotates with respect to the first hub or the second hub.

36. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 35 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist translates with respect to the first joist, the first hub or the second hub.

37. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 36 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist pivots with respect to the third hub or the fourth hub.

38. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub and joist assembly comprising pair of hubs connected in fixed relation to each other using a first joist; and

a second hub and joist assembly comprising a pair of hubs connected to each other using a second joist, the pair of hubs further connected to third and fourth joists;

wherein the second hub and joist assembly articulates with respect to the first hub and joist assembly to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the joists in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and fourth hubs about which the respective joists rotate; and

wherein each of the joists in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies is substantially co-planar with respect to each other in an initial position and an extended position;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

39. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 38 wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists rotates with respect to at least one of the first hub and the second hub; wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists translates with respect to at least one of the first joist, the first hub and the second hub; and wherein at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists pivots with respect to the third hub and the fourth hub.

40. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a stationary first joist having fixed first and second hubs connected thereto;

a rotatable second joist connected to either the first or the second hub,

a rotatable third joist connected to the other of the first or the second hub;

a third hub connected to either the rotatable second joist or the rotatable third joist and a fourth hub connected to the other of the second or the third joist; and

a fourth joist connected to the third and the fourth hubs;

wherein the second, third and fourth joists and the third and fourth hubs together articulate with respect to the stationary first joist and fixed first and second hubs from an initial position to a final position in which a work platform can be received and supported;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin;

wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth hubs comprises a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and

wherein the first, second, third and the fourth joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in both the initial and the final positions.

41. (Previously Presented) The work platform structure of claim 40 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist translates with respect to the first joist, the first hub or the second hub.

42. (Previously Presented) The work platform of claim 41 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist pivots with respect to the third hub or the fourth hub.

43. (Currently Amended) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub and joist assembly comprising a stationary first joist and a pair of hubs connected to the first joist; and

a second hub and joist assembly comprising a rotatable second joist, a rotatable third joist and a translatable fourth joist, the second, third and fourth joists connected together using a pair of hubs;

wherein at least two of the three joists of the second hub and joist assembly are connected to the hubs of the first hub and joist assembly;

wherein the second hub and joist assembly articulates with respect to the first hub and joist assembly in order to receive and support a work platform;

wherein each of the hubs in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies comprises a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and

wherein each of the joists in the first and the second hub and joist assemblies is substantially co-planar with respect to each other in a first initial position and a second extended position;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

44. (Previously Presented) The work platform structure of claim 43 wherein the second joist, the third joist or the fourth joist pivots with respect to the third hub or the fourth hub.
45. Cancelled.
46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~63 wherein the articulating further comprises rotating at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists with respect to the at least one of the first hub and the second hub.
47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~63 wherein the articulating further comprises translating at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists with respect to at least one of the first joist, the first hub and the second hub.
48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~45~~63 wherein the articulating further comprises pivoting at least one of the second, the third and the fourth joists with respect to the third hub and the fourth hub.
49. Cancelled.
50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~49~~63 wherein the articulating includes cantilevering one or more of the plurality of joist mechanisms with respect to one or more of the hub mechanisms.
51. Cancelled.
52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~49~~71 wherein the providing, articulating, installing and suspending are performed at least twice so as to assemble a work platform.
53. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 11, wherein each of the plurality of joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective plurality of hubs about which the respective joists rotate.
54. (Previously Presented) The work platform of Claim 30, wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth hubs comprises:
- a first surface with a first set of openings;
 - a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface, said second surface having a second set of openings; and

a structural element connected between said first surface and said second surface;

wherein each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings.

55. (Previously Presented) The work platform structure of Claim 40, wherein each of the first, second, third and the fourth joists extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and the fourth hubs about which the respective joists rotate.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 63 wherein the work platform is assembled *in situ*. A method of assembling a work platform assembly *in situ*, the method comprising:

~~—providing at least four hub mechanisms, each of the hub mechanisms comprising a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface such that a longitudinal axis of the structural element is at least substantially normal to the planes of the first and the second surfaces;~~

~~—providing at least four joist mechanisms in operable association with the at least four hub mechanisms, such that each of the at least four joist mechanisms extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective at least four hub mechanisms about which the respective joists rotate;~~

~~—connecting each of the at least four joist mechanisms with two of the at least four hub mechanisms for providing free rotation therebetween, the connection between one of the at least four joist mechanisms and one of the at least four hub mechanisms obtained by passing a fastening means through an opening at one end of the joist mechanism and the respective co-axial openings in each of the respective first and the second set of openings;~~

~~—articulating at least some of the at least four hub mechanisms and the at least four joist mechanisms from an initial position to a final position, the articulating including at least one of rotating, pivoting and translating one or more of the at least four joist mechanisms with respect to one or more of the at least four hub mechanisms for forming a closed loop structure;~~

~~— positioning a work platform upon at least one of the at least four joist mechanisms, the at least four hub mechanisms, or a combination thereof for forming a work platform system;~~

~~— wherein the at least four joist mechanisms are substantially co-planar in the initial and the final positions.;~~

57. Cancelled.

58. (Currently Amended) A work platform assembly comprising:

first, second, third and fourth ~~mechanismshubs~~, each of the ~~mechanismshubs~~ comprising a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface such that a longitudinal axis of the structural element is at least substantially normal to the planes of the first and the second surfaces;

first, second, third and fourth ~~mechanismsjoists~~ in operable association with the first, second, third and fourth ~~mechanismshubs~~, such that each of the first, second, third and the fourth ~~mechanismsjoists~~ extends substantially perpendicularly with respect to an axis of at least one of the respective first, second, third and the fourth ~~mechanismshubs~~ about which the respective joists rotate;

a work platform positioned upon at least one of the first, second, third and the fourth ~~mechanismsjoists~~, the first, second, third and the fourth ~~mechanismshubs~~, or a combination thereof for forming a work platform system;

wherein (i) the first hub ~~mechanism~~ is connected in fixed relation to the second hub ~~mechanism~~ using the first joist ~~mechanism~~; (ii) the third hub ~~mechanism~~ is connected to the fourth hub ~~mechanism~~ using the second joist ~~mechanism~~; and (iii) the third and the fourth ~~mechanismsjoists~~ are connected to the first and the third, and the second and the fourth ~~mechanismshubs~~ respectively;

wherein at least one of the second, third and the fourth ~~mechanismsjoists~~, and at least one of the third and the fourth ~~mechanismshubs~~ articulate from an initial position to a final position by at least one of translating, rotating and pivoting with respect to the first and the second

~~mechanisms~~hubs and the first joist ~~mechanism~~ to obtain a closed-loop structure such that the first and the third ~~mechanisms~~joists are parallel or substantially parallel to the second and the fourth ~~mechanisms~~joists respectively in the final position upon articulation; and

wherein each of the first, second, third and fourth ~~mechanisms~~joists is substantially coplanar in the initial and the final positions;

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

59. (Previously Presented) The work platform assembly of Claim 58, wherein the work platform system is capable of supporting at least four times an intended live load applied, or transmitted upon the work platform system.

60. (Currently Amended) The work platform assembly of Claim 58, wherein the articulation of the second, third and the fourth ~~mechanisms~~joists, and the third and the fourth ~~mechanisms~~hubs is achieved in a cantilevered manner without requiring any hoisting equipment.

61. Cancelled.

62. Cancelled.

63. (New) A method of installing an additional work platform system module with respect to a first work platform system module which is part of a work platform system that is suspended from a structure, the method comprising:

providing a first work platform system module as part of a work platform system that is suspended from a structure, the first work platform system module comprising a first work platform support system module having a pair of hubs, a joist connected to and in operable association with the pair of hubs, and a work platform, the work platform supported by the support system module;

providing an additional hub and a plurality of additional joists;

connecting the additional hub to the additional joists and the additional joists to pair of hubs of the first work platform support system module;

articulating the additional hub and the additional joists from a first position in which at least one of the joists of the additional work platform system module is least substantially parallel to the joist of the first work platform system module to second position in which at least one of the joists of the additional work platform system module is at least substantially perpendicular to the joist of the first work platform system module, to provide an additional work platform support system module; and

positioning an additional work platform on the additional work platform support system module, thereby installing an additional work platform system module which extends from and/or is connected to the first work platform system module which is part of the work platform system that is suspended from the structure.

64. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein in one or more other work platform structural modules are installed and extend from and/or are connected at least indirectly to the first work platform system module and/or the additional work platform system module by repeating one or more of the providing, connecting, articulating and/or positioning of claim 63.

65. (New) The method of Claim 63 wherein the providing of the additional hubs includes providing a pair of additional hubs and the providing of the plurality of additional joists includes providing a pair of additional joists;

66. (New) The method of Claim 65 wherein the connecting includes connecting the pair of additional hubs to the pair of additional joists and the pair of additional joists to the pair of hubs of the first work platform support system module.

67. (New) The method of Claim 66 wherein articulating includes articulating the pair of additional hub and the pair of additional joists to provide the additional work platform support system module.

68. (New) The method of Claim 67 wherein the positioning includes positioning the additional work platform on the additional work platform support system module, thereby installing an additional work platform system module which extends from and/or is connected to the first work platform system module which is part of a work platform system that is suspended from the structure.

69. (New) The method of claim 63 wherein each of hubs and the additional hubs comprises: a first surface with a first set of openings; a second surface substantially parallel to said first surface and having a second set of openings, such that each one of the openings in the first set of openings is co-axial with a respective one of the openings in the second set of openings; and a structural element connected between the first surface and the second surface such that a longitudinal axis of the structural element is at least substantially normal to the planes of the first and the second surfaces; and

wherein the connecting further includes connecting of a respective joist and/or additional joist to a respective hub and/or additional hub by passing a pin through an opening at one end of the respective joist and/or additional joist and the respective co-axial openings in each of the respective first and the second set of openings of the respective hub and/or additional hub.

70. (New) The method of Claim 63, wherein the interconnection comprises a pin and the at least one joist and at least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

71. (New) The method of Claim 63 further including connecting a suspension connector to the additional work platform system module and suspending the additional work platform system module from the structure.

72 (New) The method of Claim 63, wherein the additional work platform system is capable of supporting at least four times an intended live load applied, or transmitted upon, the additional work platform system.

73. (New) The method of Claim 63, wherein the joists are substantially co-planar with respect to each other in the first and the second positions.

74. (New) A work platform structure comprising:

a first hub connected in fixed relation to a second hub using a first joist; and

a third hub connected to a fourth hub using a second joist, the third and the fourth

hubs further connected to the first and the second hubs using third and fourth joists;

wherein the second, the third and the fourth joists, and the third and the fourth hubs articulate with respect to the first and second hubs and the first joist to receive and support a work platform; and

wherein at least one of the joists is connected with at least one of the hubs using a pin such that the at least one joist and at the least one hub are freely rotatable about the pin.

75. (New) The work platform structure of Claim 74 wherein at least one of the hubs comprises:

a first surface with a first set of openings;

a second surface parallel or substantially parallel to said first surface, said second surface having a second set of openings; and

a structural element connecting said first surface and said second surface;

wherein at least one of the openings of the first set of openings is co-axial with at least one of the openings in the second set of openings.

76. (New) The work platform structure of Claim 75 wherein the at least one joist is connected to the at least one hub via the co-axial openings.